

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 6, 11, 34, 36 and 42-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with written description requirement; Claims 1-3, 5-14, 32-34 and 36-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 94/04313 and Claims 1-3, 5-14, 32-34 and 36-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 82/0101844. New Claims 47 and 48 have been added and thus, Claims 1-3, 5-14, 32-34 and 36-48 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claims 3, 6, 11, 34, 36 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, Applicants note that the Examiner has stated that Applicants have amended the claims to recite a magnetic substance enclosed in an elastic covering material and that such is not supported by the original disclosure, citing parts [0073]-[0076]. Applicants submit, however, that support in the original application in Claim 4 is found for this disclosure in that the cleaning system as claimed therein which specifies that “said magnetic substance is enclosed in an elastic covering material”. In addition, paragraph [0043] of the application as originally filed includes the statement that a method of cleaning the object to be cleaned is disclosed in which a “magnetic substance enclosed in an elastic covering material” is employed. Furthermore, in paragraph [0075] of the application as originally filed includes the statement that the cleaning medium 3 constructed with the magnetic material such as the magnetic fluid 11 is “enclosed an elastic covering material such as a soft covering film 13”. It is therefore submitted that this part of the original specification and claims as well as the structure shown in Figure 5 as originally filed fully supports Applicants’ amendment to the claims to recite the magnetic substance as being enclosed in an elastic covering material.

While the foregoing information supports Applicants' claim amendments as previously submitted, it is to be noted that each of Claims 1 and 32 have now been amended to specify that the magnetic substance is enclosed in an elastic covering film meaning, for example, the covering film 13 discussed in paragraph [0075] and as illustrated in Figure 5 of the present application.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-14, 32-34 and 36-46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 94/04313 (hereinafter WO '313), it is submitted that such reference fails to teach or disclose the limitation of a cleaning system utilizing a magnetic substance enclosed in an elastic covering film as presently claimed. More particularly, the discussion at page 13, line 24 through 32 of WO '313 has been cited as teaching the utilization of an elastic covering material. However, this portion of WO '313 merely states that abrasive particles are held in position relative to the work-piece by the magnetorheological fluid and that by varying the effective viscosity, plasticity and elasticity of the magnetorheological fluid, the rigidity of the matrix holding the abrasive material may be changed, thus bearing the cutting force applied to the work-piece. This discussion in WO '313 and the figures found with such application only disclose a vessel 12 for holding a polishing fluid within which a mount is positioned, the mount being adapted for positioning the object in contact with the fluid. However, there is no disclosure of Applicants' claimed limitation of magnetic substance enclosed in an elastic covering film. In this regard, it is again noted that as explained on page 16, paragraph [0075] of the present application:

In the fourth embodiment of the invention, as shown in Fig. 5, the cleaning medium 3 constructed with the magnetic material 4 such as the magnetic fluid 11 is enclosed in an elastic covering material such as a soft covering film 13 and put in the state of shutting up the entire portion of the cleaning medium 3 in the covering film 13. The film 13 is constructed with the material, for instance, a thin rubber, a cloth not transmitting the fluid, or a diaphragm, etc. As shown in Fig. 5, when the magnetic field generating device 5 is moved, the inner wall surface 7 on the area to be cleaned of the cleaned object 2 is

rubbed with the film 13, and thereby the cleaned object is cleaned. Furthermore, since the cleaning medium 3 is enclosed in the film 13, the cleaning medium 3 can be used again without being polluted by the dirt. Consequently, it is possible to reduce the cost required for performing the cleaning works.

In view of the advantages provided by enclosing cleaning medium in a film so that the cleaning medium can be used again without being polluted so as to reduce the cost for performing cleaning, it is submitted that each of Claims 1 and 32 as now amended both patentably defines over the prior art and provides distinct advantages as compared with the deficiencies of WO '313. More particularly, the present invention clearly differs from WO '313 since such reference only discloses utilization of the mount 16 adapted for positioning an object in contact with the fluid 11 and means for moving the fluid 11 and the mount 16 with respect to one another. Accordingly, insofar as WO '313 fails to indicate any suggestion of placing a magnetic substance in an elastic covering film as claimed in Claims 1 and 32, it is submitted that such claims clearly patentably define over such references as well as the remaining references of record.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-14, 32-34 and 36-46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 82/0101844 (hereinafter the WO '844 reference), it is submitted that WO '844 also fails to teach or disclose the above-emphasized limitations which now have been added to Claims 1 and 32. While the Examiner has cited WO '844 as teaching Applicants' claimed invention and has emphasized, in particular, the limitation of elastic covering material being disclosed at least at page 13, lines 14-20 on this reference, it is noted that Applicants obtained a certified translation of this portion of WO '844, a copy of which was attached to the Response filed May 14, 2007. It is again noted that this paragraph reads as follows:

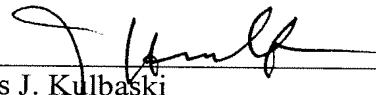
"In the process of removing the fin and burr from rubber and plastic products, it is advisable to use working bodies, for example, made of plastic and reinforced with magnetic material, due to which no disruption of metal plating occurs during impact."

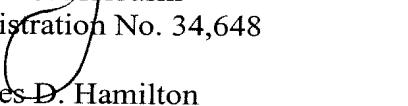
Applicants therefore submit that the above-noted disclosure is directed to the removal of fins and burrs from rubber and plastic products and contains no suggestion of Applicants claimed invention, particularly a magnetic substance enclosed in elastic covering film as presently claimed to clean a portion of the body. In this regard, it is clearly evident that none of the figures of WO teach or suggest a magnetic substance enclosed in elastic covering film as now claimed. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of independent Claims 1 and 32 patentably define over WO '844 as well as the remaining references record.

Applicants further note that new Claims 47 and 48 have been added to further define the cleaning system of Claims 1 and 32, respectively, by claiming that the elastic covering film is positioned within the body to be cleaned and is engageable with an inner surface of the body. Insofar as these limitations have no corresponding teaching or disclosure in the above-noted references or any of the remaining references of record, it is submitted that Claims 47 and 48 also merit indication of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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